With Compliments

ACFOA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE
124 Napier St. Fitzroy, 3065
Australia. Tel: (03) 417-7505

18/4

TL 1305

Dear Lucia

Benny's remarks. Tape included. Ill forward
on ABC program as well in a couple of
days!

Best regards Pat.

ACFOA

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS AID

FIRST FLOOR, BAILEY'S CORNER, EAST ROW, CANBERRA CITY • GPO BOX 1562, CANBERRA ACT 2601 • TELEPHONE (06) 247 4822 • FAX (06) 247 5536

CDPM
DOCUMENTAÇÃO

BENNY MURDANI speaking to an audience of 4/90
administrative, political, religious + military
leads in East Timor

Side 2 - 023 so don't dream that there will be a nation called Irian, a nation called Ambon, a nation called Timtim. There won't be. In the past, there were small states that wanted to be independent. Without a moment's thought, the Indonesian government took steps to stop this happening. All available means were used to prevent Indonesia being divided into small states.

And this applies to TImtim too. Whether those who have gone to the mountains over there, Who are called Fretilin, or people who are here, or anywhere in Timtim. Any attempt to free Timtim from Indonesia will be firmly dealt with, and for this reason this matter was continually emphasised, until the time Timtim felt mature enough, and able to be autonomous, and to be opened up to the outside world. Since that time, Timtim has been the same as other provinces.

So don't wish for heroes who've woken up too late. I use these words to refer to those who say "I'm a Timorese patriot". There are no Timorese patriots. There are Indonesian patriots. There is no Timorese nation, there is the Indonesian nation. Whether the people come from ~~society~~, the community, whether they are the small children I met yesterday, whether they are from the church. Timtim is a part of Indonesia. And the Indonesian governemt, whoever its leaders, any government willmaintain that position. Which means, let there be no more dreams about creating the nation of TIMtim.

If you want to talk about the nation of timtim, first look at the situation outside, Timtim in Indonesia, and study indonesian history. If you do that, you will understand, and be convinced ~~of the fact~~, that the government has only one strong desire, and that is to maintain the continuity of one unitary state - not a federal state - consisting of Sabang to Merauke, including Timtim.

In matters of government, or nationbuilding, we must strive for ~~the~~ feeling of unity despite our differences ~~must be striven for~~. So I think that's clear . Of course there are people, there are groups, who, perhaps because they are dissatisfied, choose another way. That's not forbidden. That's not forbidden. But the attitude of government members, the attitude of members of the armed forces, is a different matter. If a member of the armed forces wants to establish an independent(?) nation that's fine, but he can't fight for it while he's in the Armed forces. He must leave, or be dismissed from the armed forces. From this we can see that he is an isolated person in the midst of an ocean of Indonesian people who want one unitary state.

Then, if he's a member of the government. A member of the regional government. If he doesn't have the same opinion as the government he should stop being a member of the government. Then, if he wants to fight for his ideals by joining the struggle in the mountains, that has already been defeated, that only eats the pork it was sent from the city. But don't do that while you're a member of the Government.

So, that's clear enough, isn't it? Because it is the right of every person, every citizen, to express their opinion, whoever that person may be. But I remind you, citizens not only have rights, they have obligations as well. So don't just demand your rights - "We don't like Indonesia, it would be better to create our own nation."If thereis a movement to create your own nation, and that movement is strong enough, it will be crushed by the armed forces. And if the armed forces is defeated once, we'll try a second time. If we're defeated, we'll try a third time. There have been bigger rebel governments, there have been more wide-spread opinions that differed from the government's , than those of the little group that calls itself fretilin. or whoever works with them here. And we completely destroyed the other groups. I repeat - we completely destroyed them all. So it's not done to oppress the timorese people, but to maintain the unity of indonesia, physically, and in other ways.

(300) And if those people shouting are people working for the government, whether they be regents, or sub-district heads, they are traitors. They just take their wages, but at the same time criticise the government. I think that you're allowed to criticise the government - why not? - but don't accept wages from the government. Send a letter to the governor - " Sir, I don't like this government, and i want to try to criticise it. I hereby wish to tender my resignation." It's better that way, isn't it? And then, when you're outsde the government, please go ahead and shout.

Notes on Benny Murdani speech
Marked sections have been translated word for word

CASSETTE

ABOUT (&) 70 I know which of you are good UDT members and which are not good, and I also know which are real Apodeti members and which are pretending

99 administrative districts,nost ofthe pop Catholic but some of them aren't, there are two islands and I know there are Portuguese soldiers and I know what their names are (in theses particular kabupaten?)

127 there used to be manyu Portuguses soldiers here, now tere aren't except the ones who couldn't get work in Port. anyway its not very nice in Port because you have to wear shoes in winter, in TT you won't die if you don't have shoes, but you do need a blanket and a shirt in the dry season because there's a 19ot of malraria.

159 Integrations was gratned into Ind. in 1974, after a delegation came to Jacarta and asked for it

Since integration, they can now vote in genral elections, now they can't import directly from overseas, before there were hardly any schools, now there are thousands.

177 in military terms they have changed from having Portuguses soldiers to Timorese soldiers, changed from a foreign colony to beng part of Ind in gradual steps

200 arranged in steps, becausethe Timorse were not yet clever enough to follow all the regulations, but last year the gov ernor saidto him, let us be the same as the otherprovinces, open up TT and now TT is 100% equal to the other 26 provinces

232 talks about Central Java and how its different from TT, more churches and mosques and people. Javanese are much better educated adn speak better Ind.

271 wnaking about the progress Ind has made since independance , esp in education

304 you are 23 years behind the rest of the archipelago, you may have more priests than any where else, but not so ~~good in~~ many other experts and in education

342 administrative structure of TT the same as other provinces, describes what this structure is

375 he is not going to tralks aobut securtiy probs in TT but about dfence, because that is his job now, minister of Defense, not head of the armed forces

400 he'sgoing to talk about nation building

428 Ind not homogenous, not everyone has the same looks or customs as the Timorese

up to end side one

why doesn't Ind split up, leaders decided that the diff islands could not stand on their own because they are not economically self sufficient.

side two

to 33 this has always been true. If Ind split one island whoudl always be attached to another big power or another.

Ind gov has always done everything in ti its power to stop Ind splitting and this is true of East Timor as well

75 and that inclusdes the people on the mountain over there, the Fretilin, and any attempt to make TT an independant country will be edealt with harshly, so don't dream that the province of TT could become the country of TT

101 there are those who aren't satisfied and so choose another way that is not prohibited but you can't do it if you are a member of the armed forces or of the gov. If you want ot support those defeated people in the mountains, that's up to you but you will be sacked fromyour job if you are a member of the armed forces or of the gov.

135 you are free to express your opinions bhut people have respon. as well as rights, and its all very well to express your idea that TT should be a separate coutnry but if the movement gets too large the it will be smashed by the armed forces becasue the Ind army has never been defeated. There have been bigger movements than a lilttle group of Fretilin in the hills and we have got rid of them, all of them. destroyed

getting help from other countries, learning English

172 If you became independant, don't expect to imoport thinghs from other countries, because its already very expensive to bring things from Jacarta, imagine how expensive it would be to bring then in from os. It a long process, and you have a right tob e disatisfied, but the person to be disastis. with is the governor. There is nothing wrong with the regulations themselves it is with the way in which they are implemented.

209 let's not have quarrels between different groups i Ind. this will onlyweaken the Ind nation, Ind is the only country i the world with these diff groups.

This is the basis of what I wanted to say to you tonight

251 The probs in TT can probably be solved by time, give and take etc The diff with TT is that it has become the focus of internationla attention and people try and make mileage out tof that by demonstrating, recently people here demonstrated in tfrom of a foreign amabasador about the

lack of work. There is lack of work in other parts of INd but they don't demostrate in from of ambassadors.

300 now that you are Indonesians aren't you embarassed to be telling the ambassador that you ahven't got any work. You waon't get work by demostrating, you should borrow moeny t. fromthe bank etc.

Those of you who demonstrated, aren't you ashamed and those of you who are members of the gov, who are subdistric heads, those of you who demonstrated are traitors

353 they shld resign from the gov and then they can go and scream as much as they like. Aslo those who demonstrated during th ePopes visit. All we feel for you is pity. You should channel your aspiriations through the exisiting political parties and functional groups

396 there is no Apodeti, no UDT, no Fretilin. In 1975 thre was a civil war and some peo0le were killed, but there have been civil wars in toher parts of INd. as well. Forget the past, forget revenge don't do what you dd before because it will only lead to misery and suffereing.